

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SFRC REPORT ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL: EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN

FOLLOWING ARE PORTIONS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE REPORT DATED MAY 15 RE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION BILL AS THEY RELATE TO GREECE,
TURKEY AND CYPRUS.

BEGIN QUOTE:
COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

A. SECURITY ASSISTANCE

SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT AND
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FLEXIBLE TOOL FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. FUNDS ARE PRO-
VIDED THROUGH THE PROGRAM TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD, BUT
PROGRAMS ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE MIDDLE EAST, EAST ASIA,
SOUTHERN EUROPE, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. THESE FOUR AREAS
OF THE WORLD ALL FACE PROBLEMS OF TERRITORIAL AND NATION-
ALISTIC DISPUTES THAT THREATEN TO ERUPT, WITH IMPLICA-
TIONS FOR WORLD PEACE.

THE UNITED STATES HAS IMPORTANT INTERESTS IN THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF EACH OF THESE DISPUTES. THE ISRAELI-ARAB TERRITORIAL DISPUTE INVOLVES BOTH SUPERPOWERS, OIL, AND AN HISTORIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL. THE TURKISH-GREEK DISPUTE OVER CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN THREATENS THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO. AMERICAN TROOPS REMAIN VULNERABLE ON THE DIVIDED KOREAN PENINSULA AT A TIME WHEN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ARE STALLED AND NORTH KOREAN FORCES ARE BEING RAPIDLY MODERNIZED. SOUTHERN AFRICA IS IN TRANSITION FROM MINORITY WHITE TO MAJORITY BLACK RULE, WITH THE EVER-PRESENT DANGER OF LARGE-SCALE RACIAL WAR. ATTEMPTS TO SEEK A VIOLENT SOLUTION TO ANY OF THESE FOUR PROBLEMS ALSO WOULD HAVE PROFOUND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES.

(2) SOUTHERN EUROPE.--SECURITY ASSISTANCE HAS PROVIDED MILITARY FINANCING FOR BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY TO ENABLE THESE COUNTRIES TO FULFILL THEIR NATO OBLIGATIONS. THE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES THAT THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THESE TWO ALLIES HAS HAD THE EFFECT OF ENCOURAGING ADDITIONAL ARMS PURCHASES BY EACH SIDE. THE COMMITTEE HAS, THEREFORE, ACTED WITH RESTRAINT BY NOT RECOMMENDING GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THESE COUNTRIES. THE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES THE LEGITIMATE DEFENSE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND THE IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF UNCLASSIFIED

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BASES IN BOTH COUNTRIES. THE COMMITTEE HOPES THAT MODERATE LEVELS OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES FINANCING FOR BOTH COUNTRIES WILL PROMOTE BOTH THE PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS DISPUTE AND U.S. INTERESTS. THE COMMITTEE FURTHER RECOMMENDS ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC SUPPORT ASSISTANCE FOR BOTH TURKEY AND CYPRUS IN AN EFFORT TO HELP STABILIZE THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE AREA. MANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS NEEDS TO BE MADE IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS DISPUTE BEFORE THE PARTIAL ARMS EMBARGO

ON TURKEY IS LIFTED.

SECTION 14 - TURKEY ARMS EMBARGO

THIS SECTION EXTENDS SECTION 620(X) OF THE ACT, THE PARTIAL ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY.

IN FISCAL YEAR 1979, THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAD SUBMITTED LEGISLATION TO REPEAL THIS PROVISION UPON DATE OF ENACTMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1978.

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S PROPOSAL TO REPEAL SECTION 620(X) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, CONTAINED IN AN APRIL 25, 1978 LETTER FROM SECRETARY VANCE, WAS PART OF A BROADER PROGRAM THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD PROPOSED FOR GREECE AND TURKEY IN CONNECTION WITH ITS NEW POLICY TOWARD THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. THESE PROPOSALS INCLUDED:

(A) REPEAL OF SECTION 620(X) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO PROVISION;

(B) FOR FISCAL YEAR 1979, DOLS 175 MILLION IN FMS CREDITS FOR TURKEY AND DOLS 140 MILLION IN FMS CREDITS FOR GREECE;
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(C) DOLS 50 MILLION IN SECURITY-SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY;

(D) DOLS 5 MILLION IN SECURITY-SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE FOR CYPRUS FOR RELIEF AND REHABILITATION, TO BE PROPORTIONALLY DISTRIBUTED, AS IN THE PAST, BETWEEN THE TWO ETHNIC COMMUNITIES.

IN CONNECTION WITH THESE REQUESTS, THE COMMITTEE TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

(A) BY A VOTE OF 8 TO 4, IT REJECTED A MOTION BY SENATOR SPARKMAN TO ADOPT THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED LANGUAGE THAT WOULD HAVE REPEALED SECTION 620(X);

(B) APPROVED FMS CREDIT LEVELS OF DOLS 175 MILLION FOR TURKEY AND DOLS 140 MILLION FOR GREECE;

(C) APPROVED DOLS 50 MILLION IN SECURITY-SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY;

(D) APPROVED AN AMENDMENT, BY SENATOR PELL, TO INCREASE REFUGEE ASSISTANCE TO CYPRUS FROM DOLS 5 MILLION TO DOLS 15 MILLION.

THE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES THE EXTREME VOLATILITY OF THE SITUATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. IN RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH TWO KEY NATO ALLIES, TURKEY AND GREECE, THE COMMITTEE NEVERTHELESS REGRETS THE LACK OF ANY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THE CYPRUS QUESTION. IN THE COURSE OF ENSUING DELIBERATIONS
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OVER THESE ISSUES, THE COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE TO ASSESS
AND EXAMINE HOW IT CAN BEST PROMOTE STABILITY AND REDUCE
TENSIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, WHILE AT THE SAME
TIME TRYING TO BOLSTER U.S. RELATIONS WITH THESE TWO
TRADITIONAL ALLIES. END QUOTE. VANCE

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